

MINUTES

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes October 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Bev Boden at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

In attendance: Jeff Shuker, Lori Shuker, Cassandra Shuker (Student Rep), Greg Brownstein, Mary Jastremski, Kathy Horton, Michelle Weiss, Laurie Arsensault, Gina Allan, Susan Vande Kraats (Teacher Rep), Christine Waler (Principal), Paulette Hayward (Secretary), Amanda Riel (Teacher), Bev Boden, Andrea Brownstein, Cassie McNiven, Elizabeth Martinez, Tracy Carrier, Rachel LeBlanc, Irene Petsinis, Marjorie Low and Krista Capes.

Regrets: N/A

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 26th meeting were distributed. One error was noted. The minutes should reflect that it was decided that meetings would be held on Thursdays, not Wednesdays.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended: Greg Brownstein. Seconded by Laurie Arsenault. Passed.

Student's Report—Cassandra Shuker

Breast Cancer Fundraiser—each class has a candy jar in its room. Students can pay 25 cents to guess how many candies are in the jar. There is one guess per student per day. Money raised goes to breast cancer research. Students are also welcome to bring in a donation. Breast Cancer has donated pins to distribute to those who participate.

Mrs. Gotts will come in to do nails. For a \$10.00 donation, she will paint the students nails pink and add the breast cancer symbol (ribbon). All proceeds are given to Breast Cancer.

Grade 8 graduation entrance song has been picked.

Soccer has just finished and Volleyball has started. Student teachers are starting a rugby team to do scrimmages.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler (see attached)

Principal Christine Waler presented her report.

Principal's Report for School Council October 18, 2012

- **Library update:** to date, since the spring, we have spent just over \$21,000 on the library. Funds have come from both fundraising and our school budget - \$14,000 from fundraising and \$7000 from our school budget. We have had our collection analyzed and learned that we are approximately 5000 books short of where we should be for our student population. In addition, although our book collection was weeded in recent

years, it must be weeded again as it is very old. This will result in up to half of the current collection being purged. For a library (Learning Commons) to be relevant, it must have up to date and meaningful reading material. We will use all the proceeds from our magazine fundraiser to add to our book collection, particularly for intermediate students. We will also apply for grants whenever possible. We continue to encourage parents to donate a new book to our library in honour of a child's birthday or special event. Because we have put so much time and effort into updating our library, Jacob Beam was chosen for the board's Priority Library project. A qualified teacher-librarian (Denise Falk) will be at Jacob Beam every day 1, 3, 5, and 9 until the end of January. She will be working with all teachers to help them integrate the library into their daily classroom instruction. Areas of focus will be technology, e.g. podcasts, e-books, SMARTboard use, research skills, and lesson planning in a comprehensive way. We are very excited about this opportunity.

- **School Improvement Planning:** Our primary focus this year will be on providing meaningful feedback to students (and receiving it from them) on their progress related to success criteria (what makes an assignment great). We are also focused on teaching math through problem solving.
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** we are having a **Pink Day** on Thursday, October 25, 2012. Students are encouraged to wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness. Every classroom will have a jar of pink candies. For 25 cents, students can guess the number of candies and win the jar. Mrs. Gotts, a parent at Jacob Beam, has volunteered to paint nails pink with a breast cancer awareness logo, for a donation of \$10 or more.
- Current student population: we currently have 269 students
- **Terry Fox** – so far, we have raised \$427. On Wednesday, October 31st, at our recognition assembly, Mrs. Waler will have a coconut crème pie thrown in her face and Mr. Millin will have a chocolate crème pie thrown in his face. There is a raffle (25 cents a ticket) to determine who will throw the pies.
- **Christmas Shoe Boxes:** Mrs. Vandekraats is organizing our annual Christmas initiative to provide shoe boxes filled with things for children in third world countries.
- **Cards by Me Fundraiser:** we are trying a new fundraiser this year: students will do Christmas/Holiday related artwork that can be made into Christmas Cards (\$20) or 2013 calendars (\$7.50). All profits will go towards buying IPADS for the school.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

Mission Statement

Examples of a proposed Mission Statement for the school were circulated and discussion took place on same. Parents were asked to circle wording that we liked in the mission statement. Suggestions were made by parents for the mission statement to include "risk taking encouraged" and "reaching one's potential". Mrs. Waler will take our comments back to staff for further discussion.

Honour Roll (See attached notes by Mrs. Hayward)

Honour Roll Discussion

17 Parents present at school council

Questions proposed –

- Should we have an Honour Roll at all?
- Should we leave out grades 4 -6 from the Honour Roll?
- Should we have just grades 7 and 8 for the Honour Roll?

Are we rewarding the students who get B and C's?

Yes – Student of the month recognize students who work hard during the month regardless of grade.

Motions voted on by school council

Results

- | | |
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| ✓ To leave the Honour Roll the way it is Grade 4 – Grade 8 | 4 |
| ✓ To have the Honour Roll for only Grade 6 – Grade 8 | 5 |
| ✓ To have the Honour Roll for only Grade 7 – Grade 8 | 7 |
| * With regards to the Honour Roll for any other grades <i>except</i> Grade 8 Motion is to keep the Honour Roll separated for Term One and Term Two | 13 |

For Grade 8 only

To combine the Honour Roll marks of term one and term two and have only those students who achieve an average of 80% over the whole year. This would be the same criteria as the current Bronze Medallion Award which is achieving an average of 85% of the whole year.

17

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| ✓ Should the Honour Roll be just academic subjects | 7 |
| ✓ Should the Honour Roll be all subjects | 8 |

Points discussed –

- Honour Roll presentation at Graduation ceremony is only on Term Two
- The staff uses their professional judgment in a team setting to determine how the Graduation Awards are distributed.
- Should we keep the Honour Roll for both terms as a student that does not make it in term one can strive to make it in term two?
- Should we leave the Honour Roll out of the graduation ceremony?
- If we combine the terms for grade 8 should we be setting the precedence for the other grades?

PIC Conference

Chair Boden reminded everyone regarding the Parent Involvement Committee conference which will be taking place on Wednesday, November 7th at Eden High School in St. Catharines. The conference starts at 4:30 p.m. and parents are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the various workshops offered. Supper is provided and the conference is free of charge.

Lunch Lady Programme

Lunches will be offered through this programme on Monday, November 19th and Monday, December 17th.

Playground Discussion

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Financial Report—Paulette Hayward

Parent Council Account-- \$59.15 (Lunch Lady)

\$4.34 (Gingerbread Profits)

\$10.00 (Beatties Basics)

It should be noted that on February 14, \$260.00 in gift cards were given to Community Care from the monies raised at the Gingerbread Shop). The actual profit was \$264.34.

Playground Account--\$6,599.27

The cost of next phase for the playground would be \$20,872.22.

The cost so far this year for the playground has been \$175.15 to rototill the pea gravel. Last year, \$2574.43 was spent on pea gravel and in 2009; \$4800.00 was spent to repair the playground.

Committee Reports

Fundraising—Cassie McNiven and Laurie Arsenault

Club 54 Night Fundraiser—Sell tickets for \$15.00 each for a comedy night in Burlington. The school gets 100% of the ticket cost.

Old Electronics Recycling/Collection—Suggested time to do this would be after Christmas. Community would be invited to drop off old electronics at Jacob Beam. Bin is placed at the school and picked up by the company. We make money on the weight of the items that are recycled.

Green—no update

Communications—no update

New Business

Gingerbread Shop has reserved a kit for us. Suggested date for this would be December 7th. November's newsletter will ask for volunteers to help.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

